## Message Text

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**ACTION NEA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCCT-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /041 W

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R 231400Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5014

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 7414

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, IS

SUBJ: JERUSALEM TERRORIST INCIDENTS MAY DEPRESS ALREADY

SLUGGISH TOURIST SEASON

REF: JERUSALEM 2170 AND 2161

- 1. ISRAELI MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO TWO RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN JERUSALEM (SEE RFTELS). WE ALSO NOTE THAT BBC, AND PRESUMABLY OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEDIA, HAVE FEATURED PLO WARNING, ISSUED THROUGH PALESTINIAN NEWS GENCY WAFA, IN WHICH PLO SAID THAT IT COULD NO LONGER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY OF TOURISTS IN ISRAEL IN CONTEXT OF ITS ANTI-ISRAELI OPERATIONS. PLO REPORTEDLY ADVISED TOURISTS PRESENTLY IN ISRAEL TO LEAVE AND ADVISED THOSE PLANNING TRIPS NOT TO COME.
- 3. WHILE MOST CHRISTMAS-SEASON TOURISTS ARE ALREADY HERE, LATEST INCIDENTS INEVITABLY CONTRIBUTE TO DISCOURAGING PROSPECTIVE TOURIST TRAVEL. INCIDENTS ARE DOUBTLESS OF GREAT CONCERN TO GOI, NOT ONLY AS REGARDS SECURITY OF ISRAELIS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE, BUT FOR ITS IMPACT ON TOURISM WHICH IS MAJOR SECTOR OF ECONOMY.

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3. ISRAELIS THEMSELVES HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS IS "VERY

MEDIOCRE" TOURIST SEASON. MFA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT TOURISM IS DOWN ABOUT 20 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR, BUT OUR OWN IMPRESSION IS THAT DECLINE IS EVEN MORE SEVERE THAN THAT. MANY TEL AVIV AREA HOTELS ARE VIRTUALLY EMPTY; HILTON IS 25 PERCENT OCCUPIED AT MOMENT. JERUSALEM HOTEL OWNERS, EVEN BEFORE RECENT INCIDENTS, EXPECTED DECLINE IN OCCUPANCY RATES IMMEDIATELY AFTER END OF CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

4. CONTINUATION OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS, AND PARTICULARLY THEIR SPREAD TO INCLUDE TOURIST TARGETS, WOULD OF COURSE FURTHER EXACERBATE ALREADY MARKED DECLINE IN TOURISM. ISRAELIS HAD HIGH HOPES FOR REVIVED TOURISM IN 1975, PARTICULARLY BY CHRISTIAN GROUPS WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO COME HERE DURING VATICAN HOLY YEAR. KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: TOURISM, EXPLOSIONS, TERRORISTS

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Review Authority: shawdg

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 20 AUG 2002

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